

FACT SHEET

MIDDLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL¹ PROGRAM

Middle college high schools are enhanced comprehensive² credit-based transition programs that focus on providing at-risk high school students with a program that provides academic and social preparation for college. Middle college high schools offer students the chance to ease their transition from high school to college through small class sizes, close relationships with teachers, and developing familiarity with a college campus.

Yet, there is no one model that all programs follow. Programs tend to structure their course and support offerings based on the individual partnership between the high school and partnering college.

The Middle College National Consortium is a professional development membership organization that provides on-going technical assistance to schools implementing the middle college program and has identified a set of common practices found at these schools including:

- Integrating secondary and postsecondary student and faculty;
- Sharing resources and facilities and coordinating schedules and calendars;
- Establish an on-going collaborative team of college and high school personnel;
- Co-design an academic path for all students that leads to a high school diploma and transferable college credits; and

AT-A-GLANCE

Location of Program: High School usually located on or near a College Campus

Student Mix: High School and College

Instructor: High School or College

Course Content: College Class (for college credit-earning classes)

How Credits are Earned: Through course completion

Degree of Intensity: Middle to High depending on program

- Designate a college faculty member as “college liaison” to help the high school to smoothly transition its students into college.

Middle college high schools are usually located on community college campuses and enroll fewer than 100 students per grade level. Students at middle college high schools take academic preparatory and skill building classes during their 9th and 10th grade years, and beginning in the 11th grade may begin to take college level classes. College credit may be earned upon satisfactory completion of the college courses. In addition to the college experience, students generally have an array of supplementary support services they can take advantage of, such as counseling and assistance with college applications, in addition to academic preparation.

¹This fact sheet on Middle College High Schools was prepared under contract for the U.S. Department of Education by DTI Associates, Inc. (DTI) and the Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University (CCRC). The purpose of this fact sheet, and others related to this project, is to give a broad overview and description of the types of programs that the *Accelerating Student Success* project is studying. For more information on the *Accelerating Student Success* study, please see the study's webpage on the U.S. Department of Education's website at: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/cclo/cbtrans/index.html>.

² Enhanced comprehensive credit-based transition programs combine all the components of a comprehensive program with additional activities and support services for students such as counseling, assistance with applications, mentoring and general support.